Popeye

Paint & Household
by Bob D'Angelo

Q. I recently put sheetrock in a son room and would now like to paint it. I have some old paint in my basement, and was wondering if I could use that instead of primer. R.D.

A. This is embarrassing! R.D. turns out to be my younger brother, Richard. You of all people should know that primer has a specific purpose that can't be fulfilled by paint. I must have told you that a hundred times when we were kids growing up in the Bronx. I recall giving you noogies when you would get the wrong answer to a paint question I would ask.

The only reason I'm answering this question is, there are probably some of you without the benefit of an older brother to answer paint questions. There are different kinds of primers for specific purposes. On new sheetrock primer acts as a sealer and puts a coating on the paperbacked plaster compound. This coating prevents paint from soaking into the sheetrock. Primer also provides opacity when you change colors. On the exterior of a house, it will prevent moisture absorption, yet still allow the house to breathe. Remember, use the right tool for the right job. I'm afraid that if my mother reads this, I'll be in trouble because when we were kids and she would tell me to take my brother outside and teach him how to paint, we would wind up playing stoop ball.

Top Video Rentals

1 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Movie** (Family Home Entertainment) Last Week No. 1
2 **Glory** starring Matthew Broderick (RCA/Columbia) No. 2
3 **Driving Miss Daisy** Jessica Tandy (Warner) No. 3
4 **Born On The Fourth Of July** Tom Cruise (MCA/Universal) No. 4
5 **Bad Influence** Rob Lowe (RCA/Columbia) No. 5
6 **Fire Birds** Nicolas Cage (Touchstone) No. 6
7 **Peter Pan** (Walt Disney Home Video) No. 11
8 **Crazy People** Dudley Moore (Paramount) No. 11
9 **Stella** Bette Midler (Touchstone) No. 9
10 **Internal Affairs** Richard Gere (Paramount) No. 8
11 **Pretty Woman** Richard Gere (Touchstone) No. 21
12 **Hard To Kill** Steven Seagal (Warner) No. 10
13 **A Shock To The System** Michael Caine (HBO) No. 14
14 **Impulse** Theresa Russell (Warner) No. 22
15 **The Guardian** Jenny Seagrove (MCA/Universal) No. 23
16 **House Party** Kid 'n Play (RCA/Columbia) No. 17
17 **Blue Steel** Jamie Lee Curtis (MGM/UA) No. 12
18 **Opportunity Knocks** Dana Carvey (MCA/Universal) No. 23
19 **The First Power** Lou Diamond Phillips (Nelson Home Entertainment) No. 25
20 **Revenge** Kevin Costner (RCA/Columbia) No. 15

DEAR DIANE
by Diane Van Arsdale

DEAR DIANE:

Approximately a year and a half ago, my husband ran off with another woman, and we recently settled our divorce. I've been dating a man for about six months now, and things seem to be going along well between us. I work a full-time job also, but since my ex husband left, I had to use every penny we had in our savings account to keep things going, even take a second mortgage on our house. Now even that money is running out, but I'm not about to give up my house. The man I've been seeing asked to move in with me, and he would give up his apartment. We would share all expenses around the house. That part is wonderful to hear because otherwise, I would end up losing the house. I believe I'm in love with him, but I'm just not sure about living with him. If I say no, I'll be unhappy in other ways, as I would lose my lifelong dream, my house! I just don't know which way to turn. Any thoughts for me?

LOST

DEAR LOST:

I'm sure your boyfriend's offer is quite tempting, but I don't think it would be a good idea right now. You still need time before making such a momentous decision. As to your immediate problem, you should consider getting a roommate. In this way, you will retain your freedom, while making it easier on you to meet the bills.

However, if you are killing yourself merely to meet these bills and a roommate is unlikely, you may want to think about selling the house. With the money you receive, you can still purchase a condominium or co-op. This might lessen the financial strain on you considerably. Of course, before you make any such moves, you should consult with an expert in these matters. The real estate market is pretty awful these days. Good luck.

DEAR DEX
by Dexter Dyer

I'm a 73-year-old widow whose husband passed away three years ago. Until three years ago when my husband died, we had been pretty active in the sense of getting out and doing things. We also went on a trip or two a year. Now, I've slowed down and don't even feel like doing anything anymore or even traveling, and I have so many relatives that I would like to see. I'm just not up to it. My health is in decent shape but I just can't seem to get motivated. Is that normal for someone my age? I'm afraid that if I stop doing things and going places, I'll lose the spirit of continuing to go on and eventually get ill. I've had dear friends of mine who after their husbands passed away, or when they stopped being active, simply died. I certainly don't want that to happen to me. I always had a lot of zip, but now I can't seem to get my engines revving. Any advice you could pass along to me, I certainly would appreciate.

IDLING

DEAR IDLING:

What's happening to you is perfectly understandable. A major part of the joy of life is being able to share it with others. When a spouse dies, that is abruptly taken away. However, as you realize yourself, it is not beneficial for you to sit by while life swirls on around you.

A step in the right direction is for you to join a local senior citizens' center. Here, you will be socializing with people who are not only in your age group, but are also experiencing much of the same thing you are. You might also consider devoting some time to a community service which helps shut-ins or something of that nature. Another thing might be to baby sit for a working mother. That's an excellent way of not only being useful, but for keeping communication open among the different generations. So, take a deep breath — and go for it!

Coupon Corner
by Rose Lynn

Here are this week's offers:

BRILLO $1 CASH REFUND, P.O. Box 4400-A, Maple Plain, Minn. 55348 (receive $1). Send in your dated cash register receipt along with the UPC symbol from a box of Brillo, 18-pad. Store form required. Must be received by 11/30/90.

FREE NFL PLAYING CARDS, P.O. Box 900244, Potrero, Calif. 91990 (receive free NFL playing cards in the team of your choice). For each set (no limits), send five UPC symbols from at least four of the following Beatrice/Hunt-Wesson product groups: (1) any Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa, (2) any Hunt's Snack Pack Pudding, (3) any Peter Pan Peanut Butter, (4) any Hunt's Manwich Sloppy Joe Sauce, (5) any Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn. Store form required. Expires 11/30/90, or while supplies last.

K-TEL MIRACLE BRUSH OFFER, P.O. Box 42-004, Plymouth, Minn. 55447 (receive $1). Send in your cash register receipt from Walgreen's dated August 1 through December 1, 1990 along with the K-Tel Miracle Brush UPC symbol and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope. Store form required. Must be received by 12/15/90.